



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,822	04/20/2006	Roy H Hammerstedt	6077-052204	8352
28289	7590	01/27/2010		
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.			EXAMINER	
700 KOPPERS BUILDING			BASS, DIRK R	
436 SEVENTH AVENUE				
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1797	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/27/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Attachment

In response to applicant's argument that the references of Hicke and Gregory cannot be combined, the examiner directs applicant's attention to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 1. The examiner modifies the method of Hicke by incorporating a capillary pore membrane having only endogenous carboxyl groups (taught by Gregor). The combination of the modification of carboxyl groups taught by Hicke and the endogenous carboxyl groups taught by Gregor would have been obvious to one skilled in the art in order to provide functional ligands which can covalently attach desired affinity groups for affinity based separations.

Furthermore, in response to applicant's argument that Gregor teaches binding sites over the entire membrane, the examiner directs applicant's attention to claim 1. Claim 1 does not preclude the binding of groups from anywhere on a capillary-pore membrane. The language of claim 1 requires only that at least one compound be linked to a membrane via an endogenous carboxyl group within a transmembrane passageway. By teaching binding throughout the capillary pore membrane, Gregor implicitly discloses that such binding occurs within the pores of said membrane.

/Krishnan S Menon/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797